

Lead Service Line Replacement Program

The City of Milwaukee has begun the systematic replacement of lead service lines (LSL) with copper. The available amount of money for the program limits the number targeted for 2017.

The entire lead service line from water main to meter must be replaced if:

- A lead service line is found to be leaking
- A lead service line is damaged during planned construction
- The utility-owned section of the LSL is replaced on a planned or emergency basis

In these cases, the Milwaukee Water Works (MWW) immediately notifies a property owner if this is required.

The property owner may choose to hire and pay a contractor to replace the private section of lead service line while the city replaces the utility-owned section. The owner pays the full cost to replace.

OR

The property owner may choose to use the city contractor to replace the private section of the line:

- The MWW will hire the contractor and pay the costs upfront.
- The property owner may repay the entire cost to the city immediately, but by using the city contractor, the property owner is eligible to repay the city using **special assessment financing** over 10 years. Interest is charged on any unpaid balance.
- Also, properties with 1-4 dwelling units are eligible for a **city cost-share**. The owner pays one-third of the average current cost to replace a privately-owned section of the LSL or \$1600, whichever is less.

No action is required of property owners with a LSL that is not leaking or damaged.

- If you choose to replace your section of the lead service line, please obtain an estimate from a licensed plumber and notify MWW Customer Service, (414) 286-2830. The utility will then replace its section of the lead service line.

The program does not include retroactive payment to property owners for LSLs replaced before 2017.

It is possible sources of lead will remain in internal plumbing. Property owners may want to hire a licensed plumber to replace lead pipes, lead solder on copper or galvanized plumbing, galvanized steel, and fixtures, like a kitchen faucet.

Replacements of utility-owned sections of LSLs are paid by MWW revenue from water rates. Private side sections are paid using Safe Drinking Water Loan funds (SDWL). The remainder of SDWL monies for 2017 are being used to replace LSLs at 385 licensed child care facilities.



Search our records to see if a property has a lead service line at milwaukee.gov/water.

5/15/17